

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 John 5:21  
Lesson #25  
Idolatry Vaccine  
06/26/2022

1 John 5:21  
“Little children,  
guard yourselves  
from idols.”

*Paraphrase*

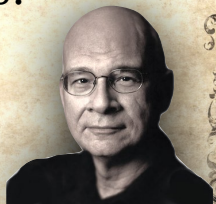
“As children of God we must take care to obey the first commandment.”

*Exodus 20:3*

“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

“Idolatry happens when we take good things and make them ultimate things.”

Timothy Keller



“For what is idolatry if not this: to worship the gifts in place of the Giver himself?”

John Calvin



“Idolatry is worshipping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that is meant to be worshipped.”

Saint Augustine of Hippo



## IDOLATRY

εἰδωλολατρία

Greek (Image + serve)

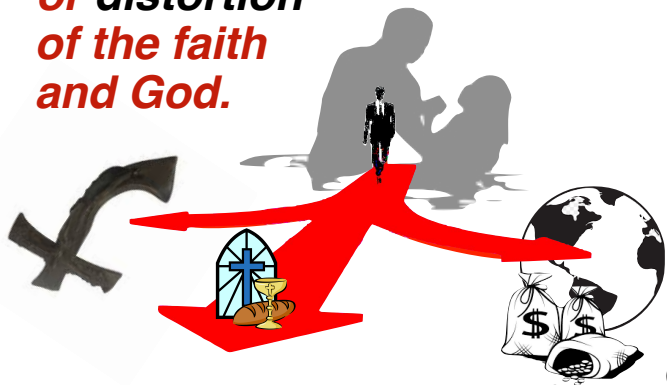
1 Corinthians 8:4

“Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that **there is no such thing as an idol in the world**, and that there is no God but one.”

**Guard Yourself**

**Discern the difference between the spiritually real and unreal.**

**Idolatry can be a displacement or distortion of the faith and God.**



6

**God's gifts can often become our idols.**

Israel's calf can grow up to be Wall Street's Bull

or the American dream, our idea of hope, & freedom.



7

**How should Christians address politics and faith.**



- Our alien status is displayed most clearly in our church / state posture.
  - It is unwise to wed the kingdom of God to a political party or philosophy.
  - It is worse to fail to address the idolatry of wedding Christian faith, hope, and love to politics.
  - In the end it's always between us and God not us and them.



8

**Questions Christians should ask about politics and faith.**



- **Christian nationalism** - Should we view America as an extension of God's kingdom?
  - **Social reform** - Have did Jesus and his Apostles model and teach it?
  - **Rendering to Caesar** - What does that mean for Americans?



9

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**MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN**  
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**What does this mean for some Christians?**

**PROSPERITY**  
(no lack of goods)

**PROTECTION**  
(no fear of harm)

**POWER**  
(no blocking of influence)



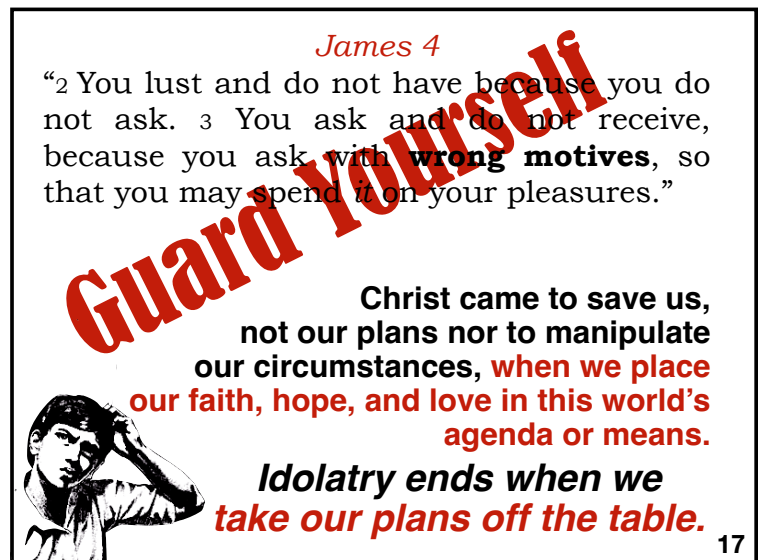
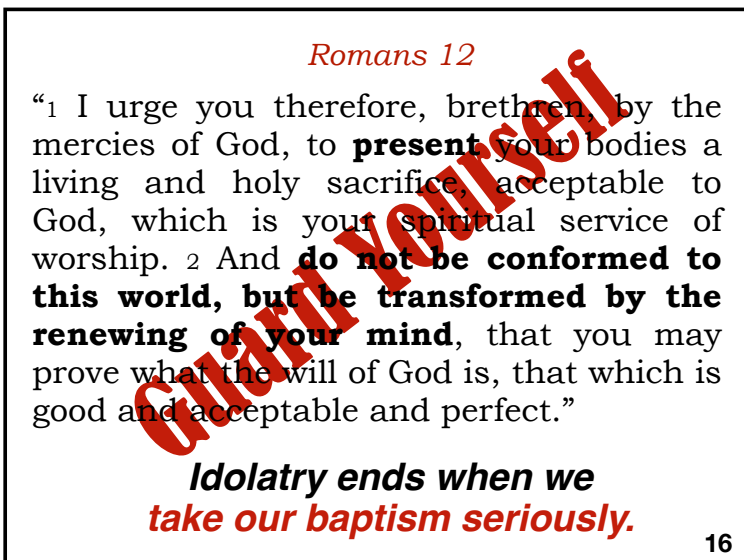
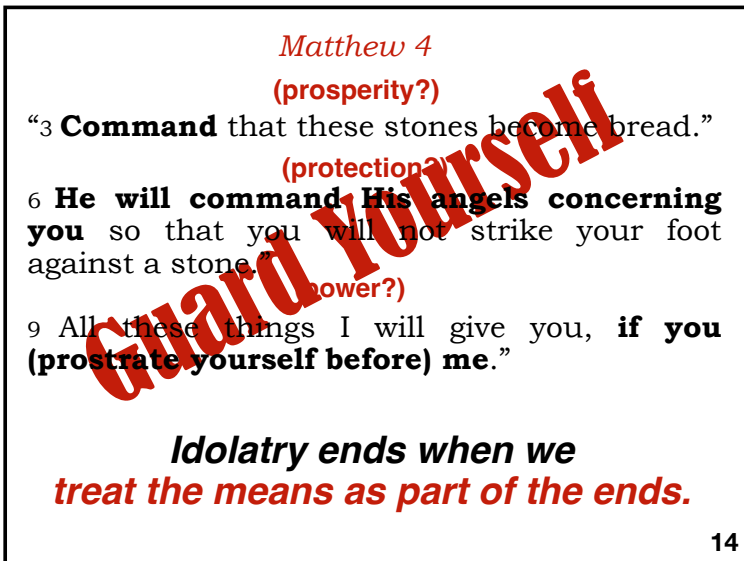
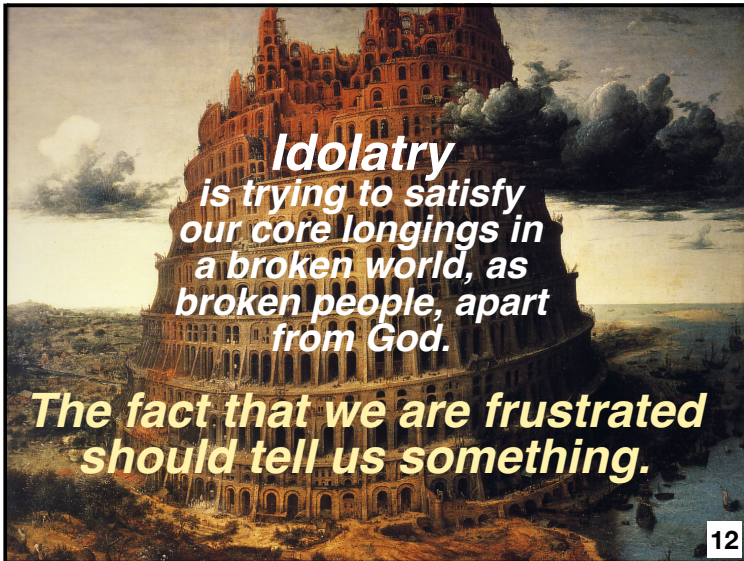
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*Genesis 11*

"4 And they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let's make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of all the earth." 5 And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they have started to do, and now nothing which they plan to do will be impossible for them."

**The Tower of Babel**  
"doubles down" on "the Fall of Adam".  
**Unity outside Christ is blasphemous.**  
**Unity in Christ is blessed.**

11



*Matthew 6*

“22 The lamp of the body is the eye; **if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.** 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 **No one can serve two masters**, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

***Idolatry ends when we stop serving two masters.***

18

*Galatians 6*

“7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 **For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.**”

***Idolatry ends when we sow to the Spirit not the flesh.***

19

*Matthew 6*

“19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

**If it can rust or be stolen it is an earthly treasure.**

**Don't lay up for yourself anything that can be taken from you.**



20

*Jeremiah 2:13*

“For My people have committed two evils. They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

***Idolatry ends when we drink from the right cistern.***

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